FILED

AUG 1 4 2012

N.J. BOARD OF NURSING

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION OR : REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF :

TRACY PERKINS, L.P.N. License No. 26NP05021200

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

FINAL ORDER OF DISCIPLINE

TO PRACTICE NURSING IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing (the "Board") upon receipt of information which the Board has reviewed and on which the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are made:

:

## FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Tracy Perkins ("Respondent") is a licensed practical nurse in the State of New Jersey and has been a licensee at all times relevant hereto.
- 2. Upon receipt of a flagging notice indicating that Respondent was arrested on January 25, 2012 by the Ewing Township Police Department for Wrongful Impersonating, N.J.S.A. 2C:21-17, the Board sent a letter of inquiry, requesting certain information and submission of documents, to Respondent's address of record in Trenton, New Jersey, via regular and certified mail on or about January 27, 2012. A response was due within twenty (20) days. The

regular mailing was not returned; the certified mailing was returned for insufficient address.

3. To date, Respondent has not responded to the Board's request for information concerning the February 4, 2012 arrest.

## CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Respondent's failure to respond to the Board's request for information and/or failure to provide the Board with a valid address of record constitute a failure to cooperate with a Board investigation, in contravention of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.2, -1.3, in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e), subjecting Respondent to disciplinary action pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h).

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of Discipline was entered on April 25, 2012, provisionally suspending respondent's nursing license, and provisionally imposing a civil penalty of \$200.00. A copy of the Order was forwarded to respondent by certified and regular mail at respondent's address of record. The Provisional Order was subject to finalization by the Board at 5:00 p.m. on the 30<sup>th</sup> business day following entry unless respondent requested a modification or dismissal of the stated Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law by submitting a written request for modification or dismissal setting forth in writing any and all reasons why said findings and conclusions should be modified or dismissed and submitting any and all documents or other

written evidence supporting respondent's request for consideration and reasons therefor.

Although the record reflects that the certified mailing of the Order was returned unclaimed, the regular mailing was not returned. The Board therefore determined that service had been effected, since the mailings had been sent to respondent's address of record with the Board. The Board further determined that inasmuch as no discrepancies had been raised with respect to the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law of the Provisional Order, additional proceedings were not necessary, and the Provisional Order should be made final.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 14th day of Hugust, 2012, ORDERED that:

- 1. Respondent's license to practice nursing is hereby suspended until such time as Respondent cooperates fully with the Board's investigation by providing the Board with the information requested in the Board's letter of inquiry.
- 2. A civil penalty in the amount of \$200.00 is imposed upon Respondent. Payment shall be made by certified check or money order, payable to the State of New Jersey, delivered to George Hebert, Executive Director, State Board of Nursing, P.O. Box 45010, Newark, New Jersey 07101. Payment shall be made no later than 15 days after the entry of any Final Order of Discipline in this matter. In the event Respondent fails to make a timely payment, a

certificate of debt shall be filed in accordance with  $\underline{\text{N.J.S.A}}$  45:1-24 and the Board may bring such other proceedings as authorized by law.

3. Upon finalization of this Order, Respondent shall refrain from practicing as a nurse and shall not represent herself as a Licensed Practical Nurse until such time as her license is reinstated. Any practice in this State prior to reinstatement shall constitute grounds for a charge of unlicensed practice.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By:

Patricia Murphy, PhD, APRN

President